

# Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna of the Canary-Islands,

edited by

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(Renkum).

IX.

## Descriptions of new Tenebrionidae (Col.)

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A.

### Subfamilia: **Lachnogyini**.

**Canariella** nov. gen. Generibus *Lachnogyia* MÉN. et *Netuschilia* REITT. agnatum, sed squamosum pilosumque, prothorace plus minus directo cum angulis rotundatis, ad basin eiusdem fere latitudinis quam habent elytra, coxis intermediis sine trochantinis, epipleuris (fucatis) continuis, antennarum clavis triarticulatis, clypei margine anteriore manifeste serrato, tibiaram anteriorum spina maiore tarso multo longiore.

This new genus is, so to say, intermediary between *Lachnogyia* MÉN. and *Netuschilia* REITT. The dichotomic table in REITTER's Bestimmungstabelle No. 53, pag. 34, is therefore to be altered as follows:

### Subfamilie: **Lachnogyini**.

(Augen grob facettirt, kurz behaart, beborstet oder beschuppt.)

- 1'' Fühler einfach, schlank, die Basis des Halsschildes erreichend, der grössere Enddorn der Vorderschienen viel kürzer als der Tarsus, Halsschild schmaler als die Flügeldecken. Körper beschuppt und behaart. *Lachnogyia* MÉN.  
1' Fühler kurz, nicht länger als der Kopf, mit abgesetzter

- Keule. Der grössere Enddorn der Vorderschienen so lang als oder länger wie der Tarsus. Halsschild ungefähr so breit als die Flügeldecken . . . . . 2''
- 2'' Fühlerkeule deutlich dreigliedrig. Der grössere Enddorn der Vorderschienen bedeutend länger als der Tarsus. Basis des Halsschildes ungefähr so breit als die Flügeldecken. Körper beschuppt und behaart . . . . .  
. . . . . *Canariella* UYTENB.
- 2' Fühlerkeule etwa viergliedrig. Der grössere Enddorn der Vorderschienen so lang als der Tarsus. Halsschild vorne so breit als die Flügeldecken. Körper mit Haartoment, nicht beschuppt . . . . . *Netuschilia* REITT.

I intentionally neglected REITTER's newer systematic tables in „Bestimmungstabellen” No. 79 page 137 and No. 81 page 54, as GEBIEN in his Catalogue of the Tenebrionidae returned to REITTER's division as mentioned in No. 53 page 34. I did so, not because I am convinced that GEBIEN is right, but not having seen any specimen of *Lachnodactylus* SEIDL., *Klewaria* REITT., or *Netuschilia* REITT., and feeling quite certain that my new genus *Canariella* is to be placed in close proximity to *Lachnogya* MÉN.<sup>1)</sup>, REITTER's newer system was of no use to me.

I regret that REITTER's descriptions are not elaborate enough, as for instance he makes no mention of the border of the clypeus in *Lachnogya* being serrated (as is the case in *Canariella*, where however the serrations are reflexed, while in *Lachnogya* they are in the plane of the clypeus), so that I am unable to say if this characteristic is wanting in *Netuschilia*, in the description of which genus it is also omitted. As the facets of the eyes in both *Lachnogya* and *Canariella* are protected by scales, I must assume that in *Netuschilia* the eyes are beset with bristles, but REITTER doesn't expressly mention this.

It is a most interesting fact that a member of the subfamily *Lachnogyini*, hitherto only found in Transcaspia and

<sup>1)</sup> Mr. K. G. BLAIR, the well known Tenebrionide specialist, and myself compared *Canariella* with specimens of *Lachnogya squamosa* MÉN, in the collection of the British Museum.

Turkestan, occurs in the Canary Islands. Its presence in these islands points to the probability, that the said subfamily has a much wider range and members of it will be found, on careful investigation, also in the deserts of Syria, Arabia, Lybia and the Sahara. Perhaps the method with which I investigated the fine sand of the dunes between Las Palmas and the Isleta, which I will describe below, may be of some assistance to collectors visiting the deserts of Asia and Africa.

I suspect that the subtribus *Cataphronetina* of the tribus *Trachyscelini* forms a link between that tribus and the *Lachnogyini*, confirming REITTER's opinion that the latter tribus is to be placed systematically in close proximity to the first.

**arenapta** nov. sp. Sufflava, corpus elongatum, caput prothorax et tota pars inferior (pedibus additis) squamis regularibus orbiculatis planis subfuscis dense tecta; antennis capite non longioribus setis subtilissimis sparsim vestitis; clypei margine anteriore tenuiter emarginato, infra setis inflexis squamiformibus et setis elongatis rigidis alterne vestitis; prothorace capite multo latiore, prothoracis margine anteriore late emarginato, posteriore bisinuato, in medio prominente, brevissime sed profunde impresso, lateribus plus minus rectis, setis longis curvatis proferentibus regulariter vestitis;

Elytris ad basin plus minus aequalis latitudinis ac prothorace, punctorum seriebus regularibus decem praeterea serie brevi scutellaria punctorum quinque impressis, pubescentia subtili sparsa vestitis, intersticiis squamis subtilissimis planissimis plus minus triangularibus dense tectis, lateribus tenuiter serratis setis longioribus proferentibus regulariter vestitis, humeris aliquid prominentibus sicut basi setis longis rigidis proferentibus dense vestitis; scutello triangulari parvo sed distincto;

Abdominis lateribus setis longissimis retrocurvatis regulariter denseque vestitis;

Alis perfectis;

Pedum anteriorum tibiis ad apicem sensim robustissime dilatatis, superne spectatis in altitudinem quasi ex tribus

gradibus compositis, primo gradu plus minus in medio terminante lineam tenuiter inflexam setis longissimis retrocurvatis vestitam formante, secundo gradu ad marginem lateralem anteriorem et cum eo parallelo terminando squamis rigidis planissimis ex margine proferentibus vestito, spinis latis digitiformibus tarso longioribus.

Long. plus minus 3 mm., lat. max. vix 1 mm.

Habitat insulam Gran Canaria in arenariis profundis ad urbem Las Palmas capta. X 1927, 9 ex.

As no pictures exist of the instrumenta cibaria of any of the members of the subfamily *Lachnogyini*, I add to this description drawings of those of *Canariella arenapta* together with drawings of part of the head with antenna, of the legs *seen from below* and of a section of the eye, showing the protecting scales.

I therefore consider it unnecessary to give written descriptions of these details.<sup>1)</sup>

This little beetle is perfectly adapted to its mode of living in the dry extremely fine sand of the dunes, all joints being protected by scales or scale-like hairs against the penetration of sand. This sand is so fine that it runs like water through a sieve with meshes of 0.6 square millimeters.

On my first trip to Gran Canaria I tried to find the blind Curculionid *Onycholips* WOLL. by digging in the sand with a small spade, but the liquidity of the sand made all my efforts fruitless. On the second trip however I took a fine metal sieve forming the bottom of an open square tin and dug with a big spade, sifting the sand immediately, my assistant holding up the sieve. Digging deeper and deeper I found no *Onycholips* but at a depth of about 60 cm. appeared the first *Canariella*. This insect is apparently very rare as I only got 9 specimens notwith-

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<sup>1)</sup> The drawings are made after a balsam preparation (transparent!) and are therefore in some respects not in agreement with what is seen when viewing the insect in its natural state under the microscope. As for instance the small circles or half circles, that look as a punctuation, are really the places of attachment of flat round scales, entirely covering head, prothorax and underneath part of the body and legs. These scales have disappeared in preparing the insect.

standing the displacement of huge masses of sand. The first characteristic that drew my attention was the serrated border of the clypeus, which I had never seen before in any Tenebrionide and immediately did away with my first supposition that it was a species of *Cnemeplatia*. In *Canariella* the clearly and strongly serrated border of the clypeus is faintly but broadly emarginate in the middle, at the underneath part densely beset with upward-curving flat scale-like setae, intermixed with stiff erect bristles. Head, prothorax, the whole underneath part of the body and the legs beset with flat round scales leaving a fine and densely granulate effect, and with short stiff dispersed setae. The interstices of the elytra and the upperpart of the middle and hindlegs are covered with very small somewhat triangular scales arranged like tiles, leaving the impression of a dense and coarse punctuation.

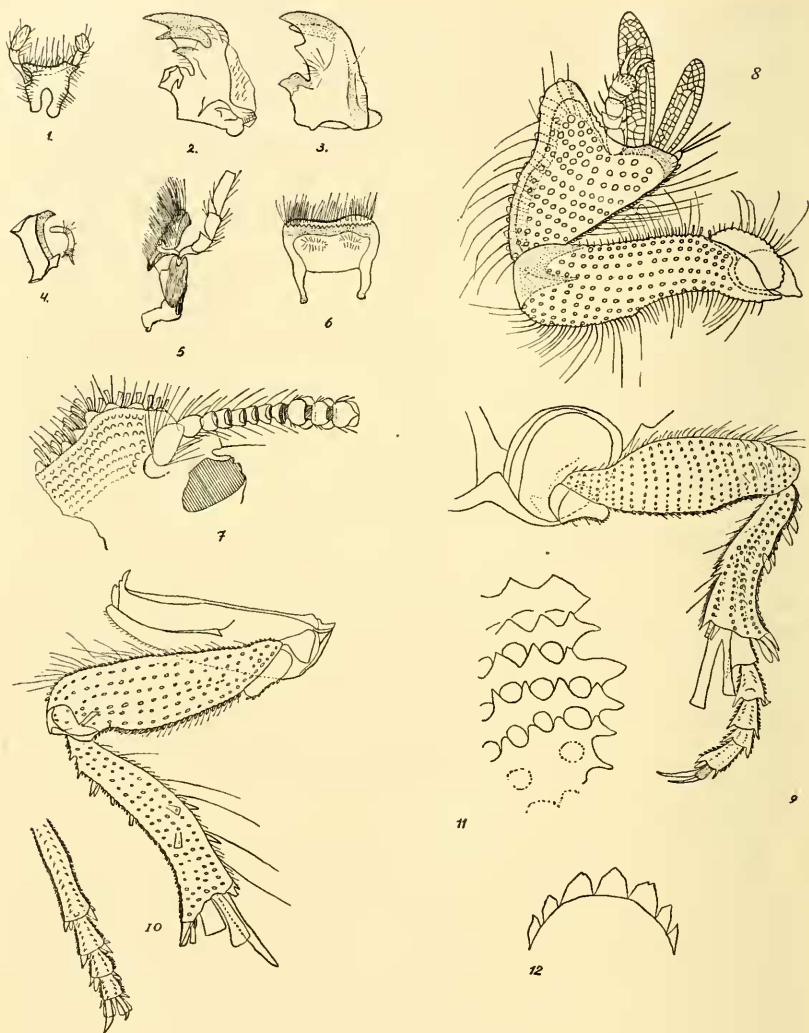
Prothorax about twice as broad as long, the sides nearly parallel, angles rounded, beset with short scale-like setae and long backward curving hairs, the anterior border broadly excavated; base doubly sinuated, prominent in the middle, pubescent, posterior angles elaborately rounded off, beset with fine backward curving hairs. In the middle of the base is a rather deep channel, which becomes evanescent towards the disc.

Scutellum small but distinct, triangular.

Elytra with nine rows of rather large deep punctures, a tenth row along the sides and also a short scutellar row of five punctures. The disc of the elytra is beset with sparse fine hairs, longer and more distinct towards the apex. Sides of the last sternites with very long setae. Epipleurae well developed, extending to the apex. Sides of the elytra very finely serrated, beset with long fine hairs. Shoulders somewhat prominent and rounded off, like the base of the elytra densely beset with long setae. Facets of the eyes round, somewhat far apart, each protected by a shield-like scale in the form of a trapezium.

Types in my collection, cotypes in the British Museum, and in the collections at Leyden and Amsterdam.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Prof.



*Canariella arenaпта* UYTENB.

1 Labrum inferior (lingua); 2 Mandibulum superne spectatum; 3 Mandibulum subtus spectatum; 4 Mentum; 5 Maxilla; 6 Labrum superior; 7 Pars clypei cum antenna; 8 Pes anterior; 9 Pes intermedius; 10 Pes et tarsus posteriores; 11 Pars oculi subtus spectata; 12 Sectio oculi.

1—10  $\times 53$ ; 11 et 12  $\times 200$ .



Dr. W. ROEPKE and Dr. J. G. BETREM, phytopathologist, of the Wageningen University for their friendly help in the preparation of the annexed drawings.

B.

**Melanochrus** WOLL.

(Cat. Can. Col. 1864, p. 467).

**Blairi** nov. sp. *M. Lacordairei* WOLL. proximiter agnatus sed elytris ad basin latissimis, basi prothoracis latoribus; elytrorum punctulatione manifestiore densiore et asperiore nominatim sub partem declivem; prothoracis punctulatione densiore et subtiliore, intersticiis minus nitidis, elytris contra manifeste nitidioribus; mandibuli stipite cum punctulis dispersis oblongis confluentibus quasi rugas inflexas formantibus.

Long.  $5\frac{1}{3}$ —6 mM Habitat insulam Gran Canaria (Bahia de Gando, Barranco de Silva) X. 1927, 6 ex.

This species is at first sight distinct from *M. Lacordairei* WOLL. by the broader base of the elytra by which the habitus becomes plainly different; in the new species the elytra are broadest at the base, broader than the prothorax, gradually narrowing towards the apex. In *Lacordairei* the elytra are broadest in the middle, narrowing towards apex and base, at the base equally broad or narrower than the prothorax. On the elytra the punctuation of *Blairi* is strikingly more distinct, denser and more asperate, especially on the declivity towards the apex. On the prothorax the punctuation is distinctly denser and finer, the interstices being less lustrous, whereas the elytra are distinctly more brilliant than in *Lacordairei*.

WOLLASTON doesn't mention the curious form of the strong mandibles in *Melanochrus*, these appearing as though composed of two flatly overlapping plates, the stem being distinctly thicker than the hook and quasi overlapping the latter. In the new species the stem is dotted in somewhat inflexed lines with dispersed large oblong impressions forming wrinkles; in *Lacordairei* this punctuation is denser, the points are not oblong and therefore the stem doesn't make a wrinkled impression.

I dedicate this species to Mr. K. G. BLAIR who so kindly introduced me into the jungle of the Tenebrionidae.

Types in my collection, cotypes in the British Museum and in the Zoölogical Museum at Amsterdam.

### C.

#### **Gonocephalum** MULS. (Chevr.).

subgen. *Megadasus* REITT.

**Merensi** nov. sp. ater, in naturam crusta flava sculpturam occultante aequaliter tectus, oblongus, latiusculus, subdepressus, elytris convexis.

Caput cum punctulatione crassa densissimaque; oculi magni partibus componentibus crassis omnino fere genis concisi; antennarum articulo primo satis brevi turgidoque ad apicem recte detruncato, art. sec. globuliformi, art. tertio elongato radioformi art. 4 et 5 cunctis longiore, articulis 4 ad 7 multo longioribus quam latis ad apicem aliquo incrassatis, art. 8 ad 11 globuliformibus, omnibus articulis setis satis longis, art. 11 praeterea pubescentia sericea vestitis.

Prothorax longitudine duplo latior margine anteriore late emarginato angulis anterioribus acuminatis, basi in proxima propinquitate angulorum posteriorum acute proferentibus profunde emarginata, lateribus late aplanatis ab apice ad ultra mediam partem curvatis deinde sensim coartatis ante angulos posteriores modice sinuatis.

Scutellum perspicuum semiovaliforme. Elytra ovalia prothorace plus triplo longiora, ad basin modice latiora, humeris rectis, lateribus deinde tenuiter curvatis modice dilatatis, ultra mediam partem sensim coartatis angulis apicalibus separatis.

Prothoracis punctulatio subtilis sparsa aspera, ad partis posterioris latera modice crassior densiorque, setulis brevissimis jacentibus vestita. In disco prothoracis fossa subtili ad apicem evanescente impressa.

Elytris quisque striis octonis latis profundisque fundo transverse corrugato punctisque subtilibus asperisque ordinatim impressis; intersticiis fere aequalis latitudinis atque striis binis ternisve seriebus subtilissimorum punctorum



crassorum impressis: omnibus punctis setulo brevissimo jacente vestitis.

Pars inferior punctis subtilibus sparsis crassisque impressa, setulis brevissimis jacentibus vestita.

Long. 10—11 mM. Habitat insulam Gran Canaria in arenariis maritimis ad radices plantarum (Bahia de Gando) X. 1927, 5 ex.

This species belongs to REITTER's subgenus *Megadasus* because the boarder of the clypeus is thrice sinuated, the margins of the elytra are visible from above, the anterior tibiae are narrower than the femores and the upperpart is clad with very fine nearly powderous subjacent stiff hairs. It therefore fits into 3' on page 147 of REITTER's Bestimmungstabelle No. 53, where R. mentions in a note an African species.

Now it is a most curious fact that the nearest relation of the new species *G. Merensi* is *G. subsetosum* KOLBE of South West Africa (Berliner Entomol. Zeitschr. Bd. XXVII 1883, Heft 1, pag. 24) and that REITTER describes a new species „*subsetosum*” from Canton and Hainan on page 147, which is certainly different from KOLBE's species as it is not only smaller but also clad with very apparent erect bristles. As KOLBE's name has the priority, GEBIEN in his new catalogue altered the name of REITTER's species in “*chinense*” (= *subsetosum* REITTER 1904 nec. KOLBE 1883).

*G. Merensi* is black but the whole insect is regularly covered with a yellow crust doubtless formed by an exsudation gluing fine particles of the sand, consisting of worn volcanic limestone (tuff), in which the insect lives. At first sight it resembles small specimens of *Hadrus illotus* WOLL. (from Madeira) but is somewhat narrower and more convex. After removing the crust *G. Merensi* appears as follows:

Head with coarse and very dense punctuation, eyes big with gross facets almost entirely cut in two by the cheeks. First joint of the antennae short, thick, truncated at the apex, the second joint globulous, the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint elongated longer than the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> together, 4<sup>th</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> joints perspicuously longer than broad somewhat enlarged towards the

apex, 8<sup>th</sup>—11<sup>th</sup> joint forming a string of globules, the 11<sup>th</sup> somewhat enlarged and flattened. All the joints with tolerably long coarse setae, the 11<sup>th</sup> moreover with a sericeous pubescence.

Prothorax twice as broad as long with largely emarginated anterior border and sharp anterior angles, the base profoundly emarginated immediately near the posterior angles, these therefore sharply protruding behind; the lateral margins broadly flattened, from the anterior angles regularly bent till past the centre, then narrowed and somewhat sinuated near the base.

Scutellum perspicuous forming a half oval.

Elytra elongated oval quite thrice as long as the prothorax, at the base somewhat broader than the base of the prothorax with rectangular shoulders, the sides slightly bent and somewhat enlarged till past the centre, then narrowed towards the apex, the apical angles separated.

Punctuation of the prothorax fine, dispersed and asperate on the forepart and the disk, somewhat denser and coarser on the sides towards the base, the points obliquely directed so that the implanted very short stiff hairs are directed about parallel to the surface.

Over the disk of the prothorax runs a finely impressed line evanescent towards the apex.

Elytra each with 8 broad and deep striae with cross-wrinkled bottom each impressed with a regular row of points similarly shaped to those on the prothorax. The interstices as large as the striae each impressed with 2 to 3 irregular rows of the same kind of points. All points with the same kind of hairs as on the prothorax. The underneath part with a fine and dispersed punctuation and hairs of the same kind as on the upper part.

*G. Merensi* differs from *subsetosum* KOLBE principally by the finer and denser punctuation on the prothorax and by the finer and less deep points in the striae on the elytra.

I have much pleasure in dedicating this species to the Right Hon. Mr. CHR. J. MERENS, consul of the Netherlands at Las Palmas in commemoration of his kind assistance on so many occasions.

Types in my collection.